

Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit

Boston Police Department . Kathleen M. O'Toole, Commissioner Judith Wright, Director • 1 Schroeder Plaza, Boston MA 02120 • 617-343-4345

Mission: to deter crime & reduce fear

Our mission is to develop and maintain crime watch groups in every neighborhood in Boston; to provide these groups with the necessary skills and tools to act as organized, empowered groups that work with the police to deter crime and reduce fear; to aid groups in networking with nearby or affiliated groups; and to provide guidance and support in developing community impact on the courts.

Building community block by block



The Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit has existed since 1985. Our staff is located at Boston Police Headquarters.

Currently we have assisted in the formation of over 1,267 crime watch groups in the city of Boston.

These 1,267 crime watches are small groups consisting of the people living on one block, one street, or even in just one building. We feel it is very important to "Think small," because the most important aspect of any crime watch group is the link from neighbor to neighbor.

The first thing an individual who wants to start a crime watch will do, is to invite one of our

NCWU: Since 1985

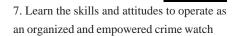
coordinators to a meeting of neighbors. Usually this meeting is held in a home on the street in question. We provide meeting notices to the host to distribute on their

street. Often this request for a neighborhood meeting is a result of a crime that has recently taken place, although fear and a deteriorating sense of community also contribute to the desire to form a crime watch.

Crime Watch basics

At the first few meetings we help the group to:

- 1. Identify the specific crime issues on their street
- 2. Establish a telephone network among neighbors
- 3. Learn to rely on one another when travelling to and
- from their homes and to respond effectively to a signal for help (whistle alert)
- 4. Establish procedures for contacting police regarding incidents and how to follow up on these incidents
- 5. Take control of street lighting, trash, shrubtrimming and other maintenance issues affecting the street as a whole
- 6. Adopt basic home security measures including adequate outdoor lighting and clearly visible address numbers on buildings



What happens next

After these first few meetings, the group has the tools to be an effective crime watch. Residents usually tailor these skills to meet the specific needs of their street. By monitoring crime incidents, it will become apparent to the group when or where to be especially vigilant.

A group may decide that the presence of residents out on their street is required on certain days and times to halt a rash of car break-ins. Even chronic or persistent problems can be tackled when neighbors work with local police to devise long term solutions. Perseverance and coop-

eration can really pay off.

Once an immediate problem has been solved the group may be relatively "Think Small"

inactive for a while except for the occasional social gathering. The important thing is that the crime watch outlook has taken hold and a dormant group can spring to action as future problems arise. Some groups enjoying a crimefree period use their energy to fix up an abandoned lot, organize youth or elderly activities or some other community enhancing project. Maintenance of a crime watch group can consist of block parties, yard sales, meet your neighbors get-togethers, holiday events and street clean-ups. Every August, crime watch groups reaffirm their strength and commitment by celebrating National Night Out along with 9,500 other cities & towns in the country.

Crime Watch leads to a safer community

A crime watch will not completely eliminate crime, but an effective group will deter crime and reduce fear. After all, a strong community is one that is very difficult for a criminal to pass through unnoticed. We have many examples of assaults, thefts or other crimes that were halted because of alert neighbors. Neighbors who know each other and who are trained to react make their street very inhospitable to crime.



"Neighbors who know each other, and who are trained to react, make their street very inhospitable to crime."



Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit, Boston Police Department 617-343-4345

Judith Wright, Director Wallace Tilford, Frank Hughes, Coordinators

Emergency: Police, Ambulance, Fire 9-1-1

Important Police Telephone Numbers

All numbers Area Code 617		
Charlestown, East Boston, North End,	Roxbury, Mission Hill, Dorchester,	South Boston, Dorchester
Beacon Hill, Downtown, Boston Common,	Mattapan	District 11
Chinatown, Waterfront	District 2	40 Gibson St., Dorchester 343-4330
District 1	135 Dudley St., Roxbury 343-4270	Community Service Office 343-4524
40 New Sudbury St., Downtown 343-4240	Community Service Office 343-4278	District 6
Community Service Office 343-4627	District 3	101 Broadway, South Boston 343-4730
District 7	1165 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan 343-4700	Community Service Office 343-474
69 Paris St., East Boston	Community Service Office 343-4700	
Community Service Office 343-4220		
Area D	Area E	
Back Bay, South End, Fenway, Allston,	West Roxbury, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain,	
Brighton	Hyde Park, Readville	
District 4	District 5	
650 Harrison Ave., South End 343-4250	1708 Centre St. W. Rox343-4560	
Community Service Office 343-4457	Community Service Office 343-4564	
District 14	District 13	
301 Washington St., Brighton 343-4260	3345 Washington St., JP343-5630	
Community Service Office 343-4376	District 18	
	1249 Hyde Park Ave., Hyde Pk343-5600	
Community Disorders Unit	Community Service Office 343-5611	3/13/1527
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Domestic Violence Unit		343-4350
Other Important Numbers (Area Code 617	7)	
City Hall, Constituent Services Division (24 hrs.)		
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services		635-3485
Public Works, Street Lighting Division		635-7500
MBTA Police		